

SUMMARY OF THE
NELAC FEDERAL PARTNERS COMMITTEE MEETING
April 1, 1997

The National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference Federal Partners Committee convened by teleconference on Tuesday, April 1, 1997. Ms. Jeanne Mourrain led the meeting and invited guest was Andrea Jirka, Chair of the Proficiency Testing Committee. A list of participants is given in Attachment A and a list of Action Items is listed as Attachment B. Materials distributed to Committee Members were the draft version of Chapter 2, Proficiency Testing Program with new versions of Appendix C and a new Appendix D.

Comments on Chapter 2 and the Appendices are as follows:

Chapter 2

2.1.2 - USGS thinks the standard should be based upon double blind samples.

2.1.4 - Assume that this means, for example, that if a lab fails benzene repeatedly they would be considered unacceptable for the entire VOA field of testing. (Ms. Jirka to verify.)

2.2 - Need to correct inconsistency of terms, eg. PTOB.

2.2.3 - Assuming that there is a single Proficiency Testing Oversight Body (NIST), how would radiation be handled?

2.2.5 - USGS thinks there should be nationwide certification for federal labs; i.e., there should be reciprocity across all states.

2.3.2.1 - What is meant by “unique” in line 2? It could be very expensive if it precludes using multi-analyte stock standards to prepare PT samples.

2.3.4 - This is different from the current practices for radiochemistry.

2.5 - Change “should” to “must” re. handling PTs like real samples.

2.7.4 - Suggest strengthening the consequences, perhaps by automatic suspension after failing 2 of 3 PT studies.

2.7.5 - Same comment. Strengthen consequences to decertification or suspension.

2.7.6 - May be better to suspend rather than revoke if the lab is making a good effort.

Appendix A

A.1 - First sentence. Should also do an on-site for cause.

A.6 - Explain what happens to labs whose certification is based upon PT studies from a provider whose accreditation status is revoked. (Ms. Jirka responded that they remain accredited.)

Appendix B

B.1.1 - Reword this to clarify and give an example.

B.1.2 and subsequent - Is the Confidence Interval based upon normal or robust calculations? Is an outlier test applied?

B.2.2 - Clarify re. within sample and between sample Standard Deviation. You can't do replicates on a single sample if it is consumed in the analysis.

B.3. - Change "to" to "be".

Appendix C preliminary draft

Overall - How will outliers be handled in the statistics? Should use robust intervals.

C.5.4 - Metals should be grouped into a Field of Testing. What about things like alkalinity?

Appendix D preliminary draft

Comments were requested to be sent to Ms. Jirka since there was insufficient time to discuss during the teleconference. The Committee on Proficiency Testing will be meeting on April 7 & 8, 1997.

The next meeting of the Federal Partners Committee will be on April 15, 1997. Ms. Mourrain will send out a draft copy of the Chapter on the Accreditation Process.

ACTION ITEMS
Federal Partners Teleconference
April 1, 1997

Item No.	Action	Date Completed
1.	Ms. Jirka to verify the fact that if a lab fails repeatedly in a specified field of testing that they would be considered unacceptable for the entire VOA field of testing (Chapter 2.1.4).	
2.	Ms. Jirka to have the PT Committee reword Appendix B.1.1 to clarify and give an example.	
3.	NELAC Federal Partners Committee participants are to send comments to Ms. Jirka on Appendix D.	

Attachment B

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Federal Partners Teleconference
March 18, 1997

NAME	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBERS
Magda Abo-Zena (Absent)	USDA	Tel: 202-401-0679 Fax: 202-401-0266 E-mail:
Maude Bullock (Absent)	DOD	Tel: 703-602-1738 Fax: 703-602-5547 E-mail:
Mike Carter (Absent)	DOE	Tel: 301-903-7945 Fax: 301-903-7613 E-mail:
Jim Cigler representing Belinda Collins	NIST	Tel: 301-975-4000 Fax: 301-963-2871 E-mail: BCollins@nist.gov
Ted Coopwood (Absent)	USEPA	Tel: 202-233-9358 Fax: 202-233-9651 E-mail: coopwood.theodore@epamail.epa.gov
Marcia Davies (Absent)	DOD	Tel: 402-697-2555 Fax: 402-697-2595 E-mail: marciacdavies@usace.army.mil
I-Pin Ho (Absent)	USDA	Tel: 202-205-4993 Fax: 202-720-6496 E-mail:
Andrea Jirka Invited Guest	USEPA	Tel: 913-551-5091 Fax: 913-551-5218 E-mail: jirka.andrea@epamail.epa.gov
Catherine Klusek	DOE	Tel: 212-620-3231 Fax: 212-620-3600 E-mail: klusekcatherine@eml.doe.gov
Lisa Lehman (Absent)	FOA	Tel: 301-827-4603 Fax: 301-443-6388 E-mail:
Tom Maloney	USGS	Tel: 303-467-8041 Fax: 303-467-8240 E-mail:
Jim McCormack (Absent)	USDA	Tel: 301-827-0425 Fax: 301-827-0482 E-mail:

Stan Morton	DOE	Tel: 208-526-2186 Fax: 208-526-2548
Donna Mosier	NRC	Tel: 301-415-6753 Fax: 301-415-5398 E-mail:
Jeanne Mourrain	USEPA	Tel: 919-541-1120 Fax: 919-541-4101 E-mail: mourrain.jeanne@epamail.epa.gov
Jess Rajan (Absent)	USDA	Tel: 202-205-0679 Fax: 202-401-0266 E-mail:
Peter Rogerson	USGS	Tel: 303-467-8003 Fax: 303-467-8240 E-mail: